

EC051B

P B6

Revised Case Sheet - March 1982

We are trying to obtain the release of an Argentinian prisoner, Sr. Antonio Miguel Pitura Rozapanera.

Sr. Pitura was detained in October 1975. He was 24 years old at the time, a student of electrical engineering. Initially he was detained because he was walking late at night, had a mustache and was wearing a jacket the police said was a style popular among subversives. Later his home was searched and three copies of the same issue of an illegal publication were found. (Having one copy would have been legal; it is only the possession of multiple copies that is prohibited.) These two periodicals were the basis of the charge against him.

He received a two year sentence. He has completed this sentence but remains in prison at the disposal of the Executive Power, a form of preventive detention. He is held at La Plata prison in Buenos Aires province. Under Argentine law, persons held at the disposal of the Executive Power can ask for the right of option, i.e. to go into exile. Sr. Pitura has had four petitions for option denied.

He has recently submitted his fifth petition to the Ministry of the Interior, asking to take up the visa offered by the United States. The authorities have four months in which to announce a decision.

Recommended Action: Please write courteously worded airmail letters appealing to the Argentine authorities to grant the right of option in the case of Antonio Miguel Pitura Rozapanera on the grounds that he has already served the sentence that was imposed on him by the courts. **DO NOT** mention Amnesty International, as AI is regarded with disfavor by the Argentine government. A postage meter setting (which can be obtained at the Post Office) rather than a stamp should be used on all mail to Argentina. The addresses to write to are:

Excelentísimo Señor Presidente
de la República Argentina
General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri
Casa Rosada
Balcarce 50
Buenos Aires C.F.
Argentina

Señor Ministro del Interior
General Alfredo Saint Jean
Ministerio del Interior
Casa de Gobierno
Balcarce 50
Buenos Aires C.F.
Argentina

Señor Comandante en Jefe de la Armada
Almirante Jorge Isaac Anaya
Edificio Libertador
Comodor Py y Corbeta Uruguay
1104 Buenos Aires C.F.
Argentina

Señor Ministro de Justicia
Dr. Lucas Lennon
Ministerio de Justicia
Gral. Gelly y Obes 2289
Buenos Aires C.F.
Argentina

Señor Comandante en Jefe de la Fuerza Aérea
Brigadier General Arturo Lami Dozo
Edificio Condor
Maipú 2050
1104 Buenos Aires C.F.
Argentina

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S280000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release ☒ Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Any replies received should be forwarded to: AI Group 61 c/o